

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3452  
ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014  
CHOGM  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether the Prime Minister had cancelled his trip to Colombo to attend CHOGM;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor;
- (c) the extent to which the relations between India and Sri Lanka were affected due to this step;
- (d) whether the issue of human rights record of Sri Lanka had come up during the deliberations and if so, the details thereof along with the response of the Government of Sri Lanka in this regard; and
- (e) the stand taken by the Indian Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR)

(a) to (c) The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 15-17 November, 2013. The Summit was preceded by the customary Pre-CHOGM Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Meeting on 13-14 November, 2013.

Bearing in mind our overall national interest, foreign policy priorities and international obligations, it was decided that Prime Minister will not attend CHOGM and EAM would lead the Indian delegation.

(d) & (e) The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) is an important multilateral meeting held biennially. It is not a bilateral event. External Affairs Minister met Sri Lankan leadership on the margins of the Summit and took up issues concerning the Tamils of Sri Lanka and conveyed our position to the Sri Lankan interlocutors.